



Lamoine Board of Selectmen

606 Douglas Hwy
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(207) 667-2242
town@lamoine-me.gov

March 1, 2012

Ms. Suzanne Lukas, Superintendent of Schools
RSU #24
248 State Street, Suite 3A
Ellsworth, ME 04605

Dear Superintendent Lukas,

The Board of Selectmen this evening received a petition with 121 signatures asking that the Selectmen begin the process of exploring withdrawal from RSU #24 and forming or joining another school administrative structure. The Board of Selectmen takes no position on the issue at this time other than to try to ensure that the voters of Lamoine have the best possible information on which to base their vote as this process begins.

To that end, we respectfully request the following information be supplied to the Board of Selectmen by RSU 24:

- The full cost of operating the Lamoine Consolidated School for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, including teacher, administration and all support staff salaries, building operational costs, transportation costs, special education program costs, and any other costs directly attributable to the school's operations.
- The total cost of tuition to non-RSU 24 schools for FY 2011, and any transportation costs paid to send secondary students to non-RSU 24 schools.
- Lamoine's percentage (expressed in dollars) of the cost of shared services of RSU 24 (i.e. the superintendent's office, special education, transportation if applicable, audit, supplies) if not included in the LCS operating costs.
- The number of secondary students attending RSU 24 schools this fiscal year and the amount of tuition charged to non-RSU students attending secondary schools in RSU 24 (i.e. how much is a student from Otis charged to attend Ellsworth High School).
- Any other information that your office might find helpful in trying to make an accurate cost comparison.

The goal is to try to provide a meaningful comparison of the costs to run the education department in Lamoine prior to the formation of RSU 24, for the most current completed fiscal year, and to project potential costs of future operations should the town opt to choose another option.

We will likely need some guidance on this process from your office as it's something that has virtually no history in Maine. At some point the Board might find it useful to meet with you and/or your staff to make sure the best information available is presented, the

process is understood and followed correctly, and our voters have the opportunity to make an informed decision.

Please supply this information to our Administrative Assistant, Stu Marckoon. He will also act as the point of contact if you should have questions. The information should be sent by April 15, 2012 in order to be available for the public hearing. The Board of Selectmen has scheduled the vote on this matter for June 12, 2012, which coincides with the State Primary election. The public hearing date has not been set at this time, but we will inform you of that date when it it.

We look forward to an ongoing dialogue on this matter.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Donaldson

S. Josephine Cooper, Chair

Richard Fennelly Jr.

Gary McFarland

William Brann

The Lamoine Board of Selectmen

lbs:sem

cc: B. Jones, File